Talmage Nebraska

A Thriving Commercial Town of Culture, Wealth and Modern Homes

THE STORY OF HER PRESENT TOLD BY PEN and PHOTOGRAPH

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Compiled by Chas. F. Gordon of the
Talmage Tribune.

PREFATORY

THE TRIBUNE FAMILY.

This little work is published in the interest of all the citizens of Talmage and this portion of Otoe county and may also be of interest to many of their many friends and relatives living in other states and counties. Its contents are gleaned from observation, books and tradition, for which we are indebted to many public spirited citizens who most kindly assisted us in the work.

While it is far from being complete, we believe that it will, in a measure serve the purpose for which it is intended, and that it will have added value as the years go by. It is impossible to cover so large a field in the time and space at our disposal. We trust that it will be kindly received and used to the best advantage for distribution.

It is most respectfully submitted by

THE PUBLISHER.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN.

Talmage is one of the enterprising towns of Otoe county and has a population of not far from 500 clever, industrious people, largely of German origin, many of whom came here when the country was new and carved out of the new and sparsely settled region, their fine farms and built their modern homes by the sweat of their own brows.

No "Royal Blood," but sweat of face
Made our people men of noble race;
No "coat of arms," but horny hands
Gave them title to their lands.
No "Fortune Coming," but labor given
To build the homes from nature riven.

The town is located in the south part of the county and by reason of the fact that it has a choice territory of fine farming country surrounding it there is every reason to warrant the prediction that it will some day be a strong commercial point and also a most desirable place for homes of retired business men and farmers. The entire surrounding country is composed of that grand farm, hay and pasture land which has furnished homes of plenty and prosperity for thousands of people from all parts of the globe and made the Missouri valley famous throughout the civilized world.

At the beginning of this work it is well to speak of two very important topics, society and government. Every good citizen appreciates good society and good government, and to make any place really desirable for people to make their homes, it is essential that both of these elements be prominent among its advantages. The people here are a quiet, well behaved, industrious, law-

abiding class of citizens, having a high regard for purity in the homes, in society, in the churches and in the busy marts of trade.

Various fraternal and social organizations exist, namely: Sons of Herman, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodman of America, G. A. R. and W. R. C.

The bonds of friendship and brotherly love are thus well cemented by these various fraternal societies. They have excellent halls where regular meetings are held and visiting members are always welcome.

Religious societies are well represented. Last year the Evangelical Lutheran society built a new and modern church, costing $7,000. It is strong

TALMAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

in membership, loyal and faithful in support and attendance.

The Lutheran Evangelical society purchased the Congregational church property about seven years ago and it is also a strong congregation. The Methodist society was organized in 1883 when they built their church. The Christian church recently purchased the Baptist church building and hold services every two weeks.

The graded schools are under the management of a Board of Education, consisting of men from most of the business interests of the city and farms. Each one is interested personally and officially in the welfare of the schools. They are progressive enough to furnish the necessary equipments, yet careful enough to protect the interests of the taxpayers. The course of study covers eleven grades on the point system. The state course was introduced throughout the grades by Prof. Bicknell last year and is meeting with marked success.

Talmage high school was organized in 1887 and J. W. Jones was the first principal. After the ordinary checkered career it was reorganized under the efficient management of Prof. Neil Sinclair, who remained at the head of the school for six years. During this time he worked out a ten grade high school course which remained in operation till a year ago, with the exception of an eleventh grade during Prof. Howsel's principalship. At present it is conducted under the "Illinoise Course" of study for the grades and the Nebraska high school manuel for the high school, twenty-three college preparatory credits being required for graduation.

The new high school full attendance law will doubtless assist the school by increasing the membership of the high school classes, thus adding to the interest of the school. On the other hand, the efficiency of the school must be increased to meet the new requirements of the law, thus making it a greater assistance to both patrons and adjacent communities.

Just now the school is crowded for room, a larger recitation room and store room being needed and additional room for experimental apparatus in the sciences.

There are five teachers. Prof. F. E. Bicknell is principal and does supervision work. He is one of Nebraska's well known educators. He

was born in New York and when a child he came to the state, in 1872. He was educated in the public schools and graduated from the Fairfield Normal, took a labratory course in the state university. He taught at Verona five years and was principal at Bertrand and Western. He has been retained for next year in his present position.

The school census is about 170.

PUBLIC UTILITIES.

In this respect Talmage ranks as well as any town of its size in the state. Side walks and beautiful shade trees are found on all streets. A gravity water system, second to none in the state, supplies pure water for the city, from two never failing wells, with mains and public hydrants on all the principal streets.

Fire protection is provided by a volunteer fire company, consisting of a hose team and hook and ladder company. The city owns fine equipments for their use including 700 feet of hose.

VILLAGE COUNCIL AND APPOINTIVE OFFICERS, MAY 1907.

Left to Right, sitting—W. H. Holtgrewe. Eli Yoder, C. E. Wood, clerk: Geo. Allgaier, chairman; V. B. Setzer, A. Everett. Standing—Paul Hampel, Treasurer; M. O. VanDerbergh, Marshal; Wm. VanDebergh, Water Commissioner; Ed Adams, Street Commissioner.

The public library was established in 1905. It now has over 500 volumes and all popular magazines. It is under the management of a library board and librarian. The use of the reading room and the books ii free to all residents of Talmage while those living outside of town are required to pay one dollar membership fee.

There are three fraternal halls, the I. O. O. F., lodge recently purchased a building which they have fitted up in modern style. The G. A. R. hall, was built by the old soldiers in 1887. It is of brick and well furnished. The Knights of Pythias hall is well equipped, also a good opera house with suitable stage and fittings.

HISTORICAL.

The epoch of pioneer life has passed. The events and memories of the early settlements of the county were the most stirring and trying in its history. Those who lived through the events of that period are not likely to forget the days of drouth or the winters of want and discontent. As it is our purpose to show a few things as they exist today rather than to write a complete history of the past, we can but drop a word in memory of those brave hearted pioneers who faced the dangers and privations of frontier life in the new and untried regions of the West, that posterity might reap the blessings of a modern civilization in this great common wealth.

In 1882 the Missouri Pacific railroad was built and Talmage was platted. Clark Puffer platted twenty of the forty acres he owned and James Cummins platted twenty acres, each giving the railroad company one half of the lots. Puffer's addition and Steele's addition added two rows of blocks. W. H. Norton platted four acres and Wathan's addition was platted, making up the present town site and corporation limits.

The first house was built by S. C. Gregory, which he rented. James Cummins, H. H. Childs and J. H. Mohrman built the same spring. Frank Patrick built the first store and moved his goods from Grant. Sol Goodman built a building and started the second store.

The following few years the town built up rapidly and it is impossible to mention all who helped to build the town by locating here. But Talmage was soon a thriving, industrious trading point. Most of the early business buildings were constructed of wood and have since fallen prey to the fire demon, but in no instances has it failed that they were replaced with substantial brick blocks, giving our main street the metropolitan look that few towns its size acquire.

We need dwell but little on the advantages and beauties of our town not mentioned herein, for the engravings portrayed on pages to follow speak louder than words. Many beautiful homes are omitted as are also some business places, but through no fault of the editor. It is necessary that there be some financial consideration in a work of this kind, and where the citizens could not be interested we could not identify him with this work.

ROBERTS POST G. A. R. No. 104.

The Brock-Talmage Post G. A. R. was organized in June 1882, near Brock, with R. V. Black first commander and Edwin Jackson adjutant. About twenty veterans signed the rolls. Shortly afterward comrades from Otoe, Johnson and Nemaha counties, to the number of fifty, were added to the distinguished organization.

In 1884 a meeting was called at Charter Oak to vote upon a permanent home site for the Post. Inducements were offered by Brock and Talmage to locate in their respective towns, and by a two-thirds vote was decided in favor of Talmage. About $900 was quickly contributed by the various members of the old guard and citizens of both towns. and the upper story of the brick block, which still remains their home, was purchased. In June 1885 it was dedicated to the use of the G. A. R. and W. R. C.

Meetings are held regularly and a strong feeling of comradeship always exists About twenty portraits of the old guard hang in mute eloquence against the walls of the Post—Comrades who have answered the last roll call and are peacefully sleeping in those low, green tents whose curtains never outward swing.

MENTAL CULTURE CLUB.

The Mental Culture Club of Talmage was organized October 11, 1900 and was federated August 2, 1901. The object of this organization is to enlighten, not alone members but the community in general.

They have taken up the following studies: Macbeth, Hamlet, English Literature. France, Austria, England. Scotland, Wales, Russia, and Japan as outlined in the Bay View course, and this year will take up domestic economy.

This club was virtually the foundation of our Free Public library, as they furnished the nucleus for the same. They first started a small library within the Club, and afterward donated the books to the public library, the donation amounting to eighty books. They have since given valuable assistance in maintaining the library and keeping up interest in the same.

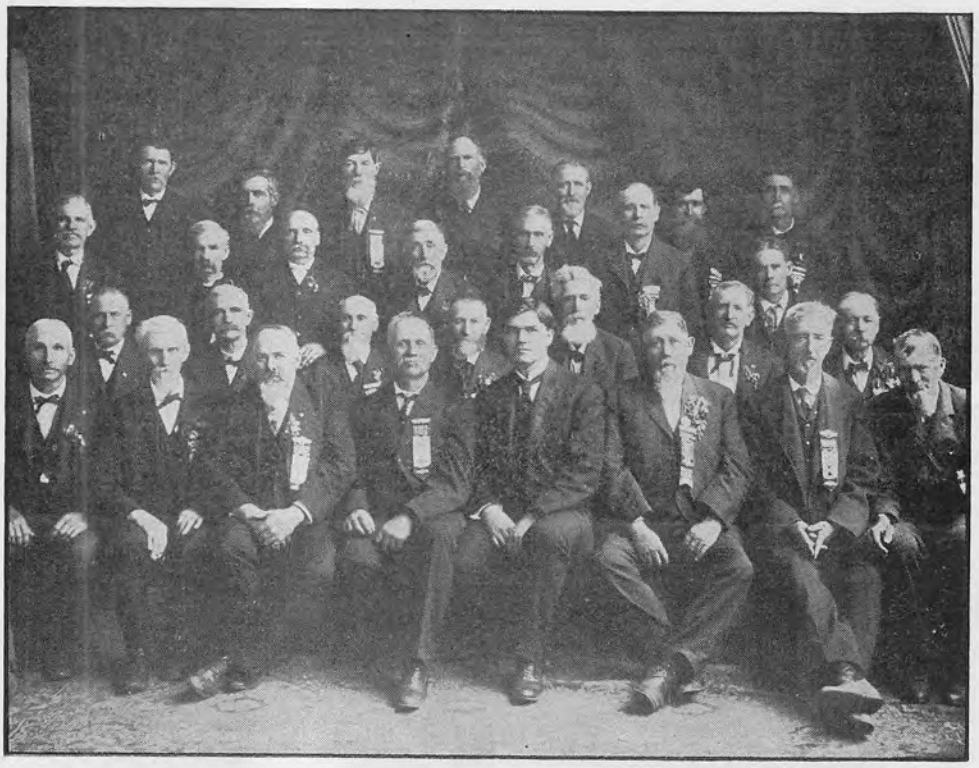
The club is composed of most estimable ladies and their earnest effort toward the enlightment of others should be encouraged by all.

TALMAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

A HIGH CLASS FURNITURE STORE.

HENRY UHL, Propr.

Mr. Uhl first saw the light of day in Lee county, Iowa. He came to Nebraska City in 1879 and worked at his trade as a carpenter and also as cabinet maker. In 1884 he located in Talmage and has built some of the best buildings in the town and country, among them being the new church which is the finest in the city.



ROBERTS POST G. A. R. (Gov. Sheldon included.)

W. R. C. GROUP.

Mr. Uhl is not only a dealer in furniture but he can build it to order. It is worth your time to call at his new store and take a look at his stock, which is well selected, of the latest patterns and reliable makes. He meets the competition of all outside trade. Every piece that goes out of this store is guaranteed to be as represented, and he is here to make good. He now confines his attention to store and shop which is equipped with power machinery, lathes, saws and all that is required for skillful work. Here he builds furniture to order, does repairing and upholstering.

Undertaking is also a branch of this complete business. All funeral goods can be supplied on short notice.

THE TALMAGE LUMBER COMPANY.

W. H. HOLTGREWE, Mgr.

The leading and reliable lumber company established yards here in 1892 and keep on sale all kinds of building material, including foundations, paints and plaster. The yards are 132 feet square, well equipped with office, ware rooms, sheds, coal bins, etc., all filled with choice material. A branch yard is operated at Johnson and managed by W. H. Holtgrewe. Mr. Holtgrewe came to the state seventeen years ago and located at Johnson where he was in general merchandising for seven years. He then became manager of the yards there, coming here in 1902. He purchased his

SCHOOL BOARD.

Left to Right: Geo. Brehm, C. E. Wood, R. H. Meents, John Damme, John Bruns, J. H. Damme.

MENTAL CULTURE CLUB.

present fine residence two years ago. He was married to Miss Emma Ernst of Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Holtgrewe have one child, Helen.

Mr. Holtgrewe has served on the town board two terms and was chairman of that body last year. He takes an active part in all movements for the betterment of this community.

W. E. CARNEY.

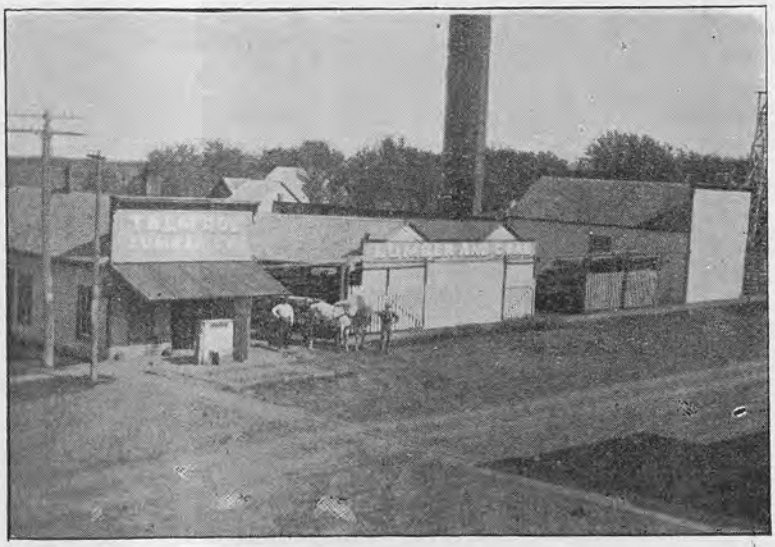
In Talmage's roster of successful business men none is more prominent than W. E. Carney. Born in Bedford, Penn., in the year of 1866, June 30th, he came to Nebraska with his parents when a mere boy—year of 1872. They located on a farm near Fairmont. When nineteen years of age Mr. Carney entered a hardware store at Sutton to learn the trade of a tinner. Completing his apprenticeship, he went to St. Joseph, Mo., took a business course and then went to work in Clay Center, Nebraska, at his trade. Later he took a partnership with the man for whom he worked, and continued in business there for three and one half years, handling hardware, queensware and furniture. Disposing of his interests there, he came to Talmage in February, 1899, and has since been engaged in the hardware business here and until recently also handled furniture.

On June 14, 1899, Mr. Carney took unto himself a wife in the person of Miss Minnie Cummins. They are the proud parents of an unusually intelligent little girl—Miss Edna Carney.

Mr. Carney is one of the trustees of the M. E. church and has been Sunday School superintendent for over five years.

Looking forward to the time when he can retire from business and lead the quiet life of a farmer, Mr. Carney recently purchased a quarter section of land in Sherman county, Kansas.

UHL'S FURNITURE STORE AND WORK SHOP.



TALMAGE LUMBER CO. YARDS.

STORZ BEER VAULT.

Talmage and vicinity consumes much beer annually and as all want the best, there is a great demand for Storz Blue Ribbon. To accomodate this demand a large beer vault was erected in Talmage by the Storz people for their own use. Their product is handled by Wm. Kreimer and August Hansen, and its popularity is well attested by the regularity with which it is necessary to replenish the supply. The Storz building, a likeness of which appears herein, is quite an extensive structure, with large capacity and built with an eye to appearance as well as service.

INTERIOR OF CARNEY'S HARDWARE STORE.

STORZ BEER VAULT.

ROBERTS RELIEF CORPE NO. 72.
TALMAGE, NEBR.

Auxiliary to Roberts Post No. 104, G. A. R. was organized October 27, 1889, by Mrs. Emma B. Manchester, of Lincoln, Department President. Mrs. Nancy E. Norton was the first president. Of the twenty names in the charter, only five remain members of the Corps. They are Mrs. Norton, Mrs. McNutt, Mrs. Amy Cathcart, Mrs. Mary J. Wallace and Mrs. Alice Wathan. At one time there were sixty members, but through death and removals the corps was reduced to eleven members. The past year, however, they have taken on new life, and now have twenty-six members.

During the hard times, caused by crop failures, they were able to do a large amount of relief work, but of late their work has been mainly along patriotic lines, but they stand ever prepared to assist a needy veteran or those dependent upon him.

Any woman of good moral character and correct deportment, and who has not given aid and comfort to the enemies of the Union, and who would perpetuate the principles to which this association stands pledged, and who shall have attained the age of sixteen years, is eligible to membership in the W. R. C. All members of the W. R. C. are pledged to cherish and emulate the deeds of the loyal women who have rendered service to our county in her hour of peril, to encourage loyalty, inculcate lessons of partiotism and love of country, and perpetuate the memory of our heroic dead.

THE FERRY RESTAURANT.

A good restaurant is essential to every well regulated town, and Talmage boasts of one of the best such enterprises to be found in this section of the country. D. W. Ferry is the manager of this restaurant and his geniality and strictly up-

INTERIOR OF THE FERRY RESTAURANT.

right business methods have built for him an extensive patronage.

Mr. Ferry is a man of strong sentiments, and his voice was first heard on the first day of the last month of the year of 1849, in Onondaga county, New York state.

In 1870 he came to Nebraska, first locating in Seward county on a farm, later engaging in the mercantile business in Hastings and in the year of 1884 located on a farm south of Talmage. Mr. Ferry has been engaged in business in Talmage a little more than a year and was interested in the mercantile business in Brock for six years prior to coming here.

In 1879 Mr. Ferry and Miss Mary Tait were united in marriage and this union has been blessed with two chidren, both of whom are now grown.

Mr. Ferry can well boast of patriotic lineage, although boasting is not common practice with him. Three of his great grand fathers fought in the Revolutionary war, one grandfather in the war of 1812, an uncle in the Mexican war, and his father, an uncle and various other relatives in the Civil war.

DR. GEO. EWH.

In the year of 1858, in Jersey City, N. J., George Ewh was born. At an early age, having completed the high school of his native city, he took up a college course, and at the age of twenty had completed his medical studies in New York University.

He was at once offered the responsible position of assistant physican at Bellevue hospital, New York city, and filled this place with credit for two years 1878-1879. Soon after he came west, locating first at Auburn, Nebraska, later at Brock, and in 1885 came to Talmage, and has practiced here continuously since.

In the twenty-two years he has been here he has built up a remarkably large practice and become recognized as one of the leading physicians of southeast Nebraska.

In the year of 1890 he returned to New York for a few weeks and took a postgraduate course in the Policlinic school of that city.

JOHN GUTHALS.

Born in Marx, Oestfriesland, Germany, on the 6th day of March, 1835, John Guthals spent his early days in his native clime. At the age of twenty-four, in the year of 1859, in the month of July, he set sail for America. Arrived here, he located in St. Clair county, Illinois. On November 18th, of the following year, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Anteke Guthals, and in 1869 they came to Nebraska, locating on the farm two miles northeast of Talmage. In October, 1880, Mrs. Guthals passed to the great beyond. He was again married, in April, 1883, Mrs. Louisa Glassmeyer being the second woman of his choice.

DR. GEO. EWH.

the business. About a year ago Mr. McKibben removed to Memphis, Nebraska, and Miss Blanche McKibben came into the management of the pharmacy.

Miss McKibben has a thorough knowledge of the details of the business, is very successful in the management thereof and is conducting an institution that is a great credit to the town.

They carry an exceptionally large and thoroughly complete stock of drugs, patent medicines, toilet articles, etc., and have established a patronage that bespeaks the confidence of the people.

Besides being possessed of extraordinary business ability, Miss McKibben is one of our most talented and highly cultured young ladies. She is a teacher of music, both vocal and instrumental —and possesses vocal powers that never fail to please and charm her auditors; but nevertheless, she considers herself none too good to stand at the soda fountain and serve refreshments to her customers, and this alone has made her store a popular resort for the elect of the community.

The prescription department is under the management of a registered pharmacist.

MRS. DR. EWH'S GARDEN.

They resided on the farm until 1903, when they moved to town and settled in their present pleasant home.

Mr. Guthals is one of our most public spirited men and ever devotes his energies where the most good is to be accomplished. He was one who contributed a large sum toward the building of the new Lutheran church and is a member of the directorate of the church.

Mr. Guthals has been a successful man in business affairs and now owns 365 acres of land in this community, 160 acres in Thayer county and a half section in western Texas, besides other real-estate.

Mr. Guthals is the father of seven living children, four boys and three girls He also has many grandchildren.

THE M'GIBBEN DRUG STORE.

One of the thoroughly metroplitan institutions of Talmage is the McKibben drug store. It was under the management of Dr. McKibben for nearly four years, he having succeeded George Gilman in

PROF. F. E. BICKNELL.

E. J. STRANGMAN.

Born in Racine, Wis., August 2, 1877, E. J. Strangman passed his early childhood at that place. At the age of eleven he removed with his parents to Los Angeles, Cal., While yet a young man Mr. Strangman took up the occupation of contractor and builder. By dint of years of close adaption he has become skilled in the art of building and cultivated his natural ability as an architect and designer, and now stands recognized as a leader in these departments.

He came to Nebraska in 1899, locating in this community, and on July 23, 1903, was united in marriage to Miss Anna Teten. They have one child, a sweet little girl two years of age.

Mr. Strangman is also proprietor of one of our up-to-date furniture stores, and is making a great success of the business. His store is thoroughly equipped, his stock consists of strictly first-class goods, and a large patronage testifies to his square business dealings.

A FLORAL PARADISE.

One of the most attractive places in Talmage, one where floral resplendence is in evidence from early spring to late autumn, is the beautiful garden that Mrs. Ewh has brought forth under her careful attention and copious labor. Here nearly every genus of plant beauty that can be grown in this climate, is to be found.

She has spared no labor or expense in making this garden a veritable floral paradise, and it is with but admiring eyes that one gazes upon the beautiful plants here assembled.

The likeness herewith reproduced gives some idea of the splendor of the floral plot, but we must

FLORAL SCENE AT HOME OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN GUTHALS

INTERIOR OF M'KIBBEN'S DRUG STORE.

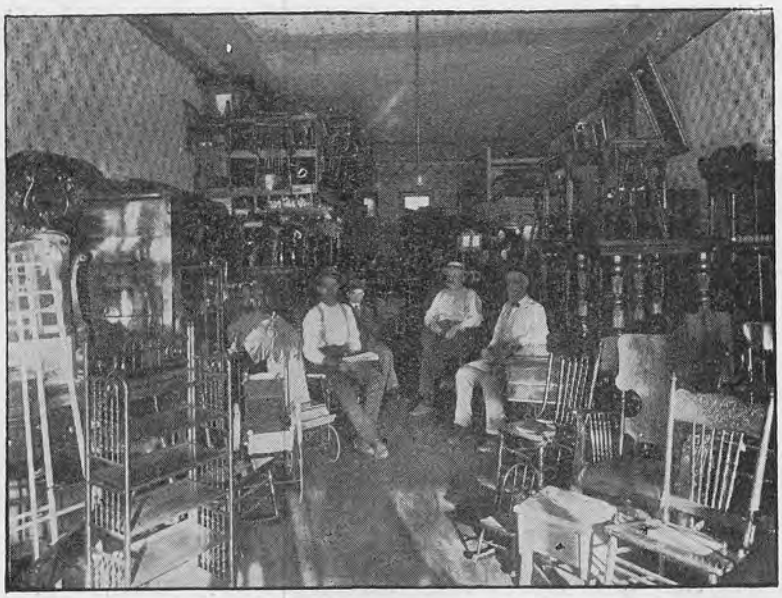
mingle in their midst to appreciate the richness of the perfect color and the incense of the fragrance.

GEO. H. PETERSON.

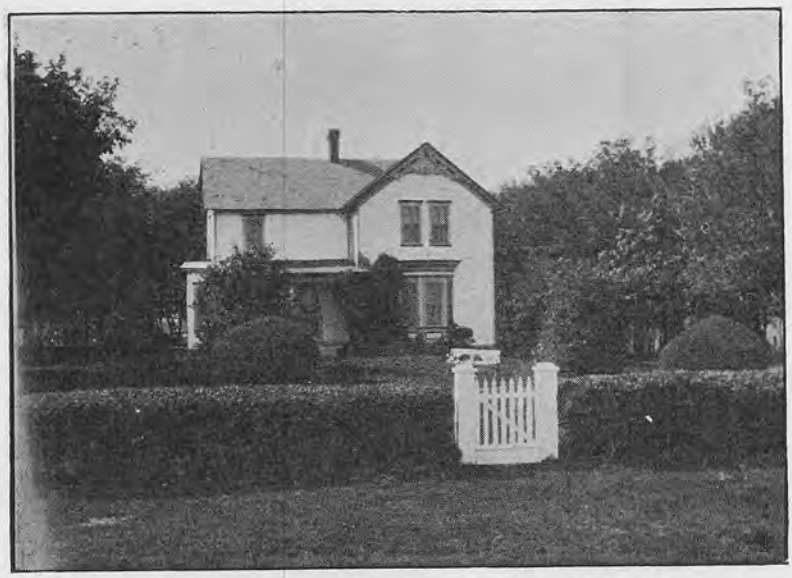
George H. Peterson is a native of Illinois, having first seen the light of day in Knox county, that state. He came to Nebraska in 1883 and located on the fine farm, three miles southwest of Talmage, where he now lives, the same having been purchasd prior to his coming west.

Mr. Peterson has prospered well since locating here and now has one of the best improved farms in this section. He has made a thorough study of the science of agriculture and put into practice such principles as would enable him to derive the best results from his agricultural pursuit. Mr. Peterson is also an extensive apple grower, having an ocrhard of many acres and annually marketing hundreds of bushels of apples. He is a stockholder and one of the directors in the Bank of Talmage.

The beautiful country home herein shown is the scene of many delightful social functions, as both Mr. and Mrs. Peterson take great pleasure in entertaining their friends and dispensing hospitality.



INTERIOR OF E. J. STRANGMAN'S FURNITURE STORE.



COUNTRY HOME OF GEO. PETERSON.

Mrs. Peterson has lived in this community nearly all her life and was formerly a teacher in our public school.

NEMAHA VALLEY LUMBER CO.

One of the strong institutions of Talmage is the Nemaha Valley Lumber Co. This institution was founded in 1891, and began business on the

1st day of July of that year. The original stockholders and financers of the enteriprise were Peter Berlet, James Cummins, H. H. Childs, S. C. Gregory, Wm. Becker, P. A. Flodin, Lee L. Horrum and Clark Puffer, most of whom were at that time engaged in business in Talmage. Peter Berlet was the first president of the organization and H. H. Childs the first secretary and the latter also acted as the first manager A number of the well-

YARDS OF THE NEMAHA VALLEY LUMBER CO.

HOME OF HERMAN BADBERG.

to-do farmers of this community were later interested in the enterprise and today most of the stock is owned by farmers.

Mr. Childs continued as manager of the yards until his health began to fail, when Eli Yoder was made acting manager. At the death of Mr. Childs, Mr. Yoder was made permanent manager. and still holds that position. W. P. Clark is the present president and Mrs. L. A. Childs, vice president.

Everything that is to be found at an up-to-date lumber yard is handled here, and they can furnish the material for a building from the foundation to the last coat of paint, having recently began the manufacture of concrete blocks.

HERMAN H. BADBERG.

On a cold, wintry day, January, 21, 1873, with snow standing three feet deep on the level, the wind howling tragically over the prairies, and storm in the air, Herman H. Badberg was ushered into this world. The home of the parents was then on the farm now owned by John Frerichs, northeast of town.

Mr. Badberg's early life was spent on the farm. In 1898 he came to town and engaged in

business, and has proved a successful business man, having acquired a farm near town of 120 acres, a nice residence property here in town and other property of considerable value.

In 1890 Mr. Badberg was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Imig, and today two bright, attractive children, a girl and a boy, prattle about their home, filling the parents' hearts with love and sunshine.

GEO. WEBSTER'S HOME.

WM. KREIMER AND FAMILY.

Mr. Badberg is alway interested in anything that will benefit the town and takes an active part in promoting the welfare of Talmage and vicinity.

A MODERN DRUG STORE.

GEO. WEBSTER, Propr.

Mr. Webster is one of the pioneers of Nebraska. Born in Elgin, Illinois, he came to the state in 1869. He engaged in the retail drug business and later he traveled for the Lincoln Drug Company. He located in Talmage, September 23, 1901, since which time he has conducted the retail drug business here. He was married to Mrs. Ida Ross since locating in Talmage, who died in December, 1906.

The Webster Drug store is one of the neatest in the state. Nothing but pure and fresh drugs are found here. Also a full line of sundries, stationary, perfumes, toilet goods, paints, oils, wall paper, stock food, etc. Mr. Webster makes perscription work a specialtly and you can depend upon purity of drugs and accuracy in compounding.

WM. KREIMER.

Another public spirited citizen who came

from Iowa to Talmage is Mr. Kreimer. He located here in 1889 and engaged in the creamery business and teaming. He owns a good residence which he rebuilt and converted into comfortable and modern home.

Mr. and Mrs. Kreimer have an interesting family of seven children, Alma, Bennie, Cora, Louise, Nora, Elsie and George.

During the past nine years Mr. Kreimer has been connected with a licenced saloon and is at present the sole proprietor. He is agent for Harper's Whiskey, Storz beer, fine wines and cigars.

Mr. Kreimer is a good citizen and a pleasant gentleman to meet.

A. L. BRANNAN.

Born in Ohio, he moved to western Nebraska in 1891 and in 1894 to Talmage. He clerked seven years in a hardware store and then engaged in the grain business. Mr. Brannan is local manager for the Bartling Grain Co., having the largest elevator here, with a capacity of 16,000 bushels. He has a flour and feed exchange where he sells the Cook and the Weeping Water flour, and has a fine trade.

Mr. Brannan owns a good home in the city. He is an active member of the M. W. A. and has been council five years.

A. L. BRANNAN'S RESIDENCE.

A PIONEER MERCHANT.

Mr. J. H. Damme was among the first to cast his lot in the new town of Talmage, in 1882.

He was born in Franklin county, Missouri, and in 1875 he came to Nebraska and engaged in farm work for two years near Osage postoffice. He clerked in Nebraska City for five years in a store and worked for the Chicago Lumber Company when they started yards here in 1882.

The same year he purchased his present business location, built a frame building and put in a general store. In 1887 this building burned and he erected his present two story brick which is stocked with a complete line of everything suitable to the demands of the community, dry goods, notions, shoes furnishings, clothing produce and groceries.

That he has been a careful and successful merchant is evidenced by his large stock and very extensive trade.

Mr. Damme owns choice farm lands in Otoe and Wayne counties which he rents. He built a substantial brick residence in 1899 which does credit to the homes of our city. Thus from a farm laborer, when a young man and the county was mostly wild prairie, Mr. Damme has grown up with the surroundings until he is now on an independent footing. He takes an interest in all home affairs and especially in schools. He is treasurer of the board of education.

R. H. MEENTS.

Mr. Meents was born in Germany. He came to America when sixteen years of age in 1882. He worked on a farm in Illinois two years and came to Nebraska in 1884. Here he worked on a farm and attended English school in winter and soon became a good scholar by applying the knowledge he had gained in schools of the fatherland. In 1892 he was married to Miss Emma Hansen whose home was near Talmage. He farmed in Rock Creek township and in 1898 moved to Illinois where they lived one year. They then returned to Talmage. In 1902 they purchased their present beautiful home shown in the view. Mr. Meents also owns a brick business property and vacant lots in the city and 320 acres of fine land in Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Meents also operate the Clifton Hotel, noted for fine meals, clean rooms and courteous treatment for all guests.

Mr. Meents knows the value of a good education and takes a deep interest in all school affairs. He is president of the board of education.

ALLGAIER & CO.

This store was started about eight years ago and has since been remodled and beautified until it is now one of the handsomest in town. It has always been a leading mercantile house of this part of Otoe county. It is really a big department store carrying everything required to meet the needs of the community in a general store. Here is a stock of dry goods shoes, furnishings, notions, groceries, queensware etc., that for size and up-to-dateness would open the eyes of many city merchants. There is also a basement and ware room crowded with the overflow of stock. This firm furnishes supplies for farmers from a large territory. Every day great bundles of goods leave here for the surrounding country. The head of this firm, Mr. George Allgaier, is a merchant of broad experience, having fifteen years experience as clerk and partner, part of this time at Seward. By fair dealing this firm has increased the business and enjoys the confidence of the community.

Five or six employees are busy looking after the wants of patrons.

J. H. DAMME'S RESIDENCE.

R. H. MEENTS' HOME.

Mr. Allgaier is president of the town board and a member of the library board.

THE BIG HARDWARE STORE.

WM. J. RITTER, Propr.

There is always something doing at this store. The active men in this firm are Mr. Ritter

and all his clerks, because their customers keep them busy. This store is noted for the quality and quantity of goods carried as well as for the wide choice and reasonable prices offered to customers.

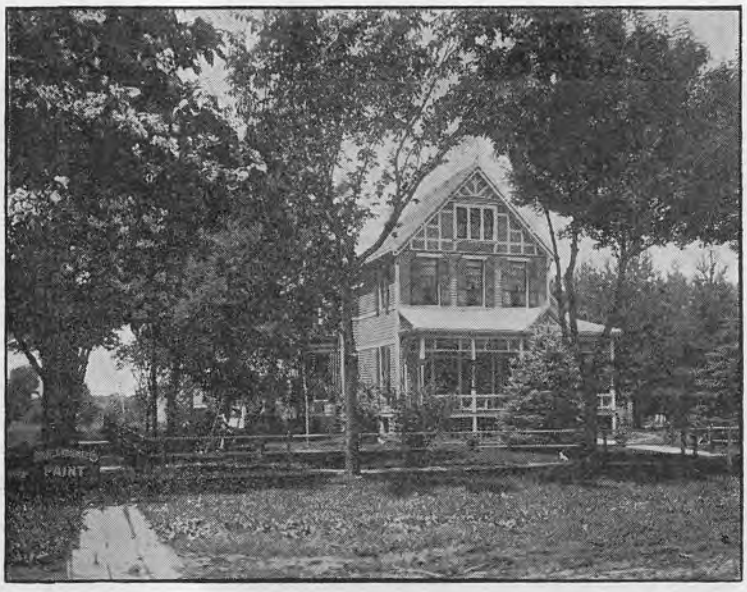
Besides shelf and heavy hardware we find all kinds of farm implements, wind mills, fittings pumps, tin work, plumbing, paints, oils and repairs for implements. Here is the place to find a good vehicle, wagon, carriage or buggy. The

BANK OF TALMAGE.

The history of the Bank of Talmage begins in 1883, when James Sweet & Co. organized a private bank. It was reorganized in 1884 and in 1886 the present building was erected. The present officers were among the original organizers excepting Mr. Charles E. Wood, the assistant cashier, who came into the bank about fifteen years ago.

The business of the bank has gradually in-

W. J. RITTER'S HARDWARE STORE.



W. J. RITTER'S HOME.

Rev. Josiah Ritter came from Iowa in 1868 and located on the Ritter homestead with his family. Here Wm. J. spent his boyhood days and acquired industrious habits that count so much toward success. The business of this firm is perhaps as large as that of any in Talmage. Among other things that Mr. Ritter has done is the erection of one of the elegant and commodious homes in the city.

creased. The capital stock has been increased from $15,000 to $20,000, and with a gradually growing surplus, now $10,000.

The deposits exceeded $165,000 according to a recent official statement, which is a fair index of the confidence placed in this strong financial institution.

The present officers are Herman Arends, president; J. H. Damme, vice president; Theo.

Frerichs, cashier; Chas. E. Wood, assistant cashier.

Theo. Frerichs, the cashier, has had charge of the affairs of the bank since its was incorporated and has been careful and conservative in all its affairs. He is a native of Germany. He came to Nebraska City in 1881 and to Talmage in 1883.

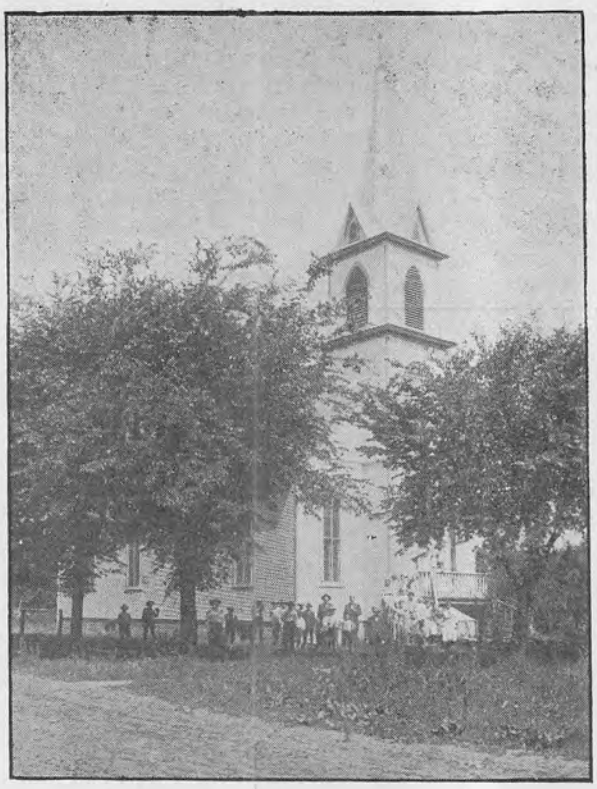
JUDGE W. H. NORTON.

Whatever others may have done, Judge Norton has done his share toward building up Talmage. He was among the first on the ground in 1882 and for fifteen years he erected more buildings than any other man as carpenter and contractor. He has seen the town develop from a cornfield into a thriving trade center. He plotted Norton's addition to Talmage and built the present family home in 1893. He has served as Justice of the Peace ten years which office he still holds.

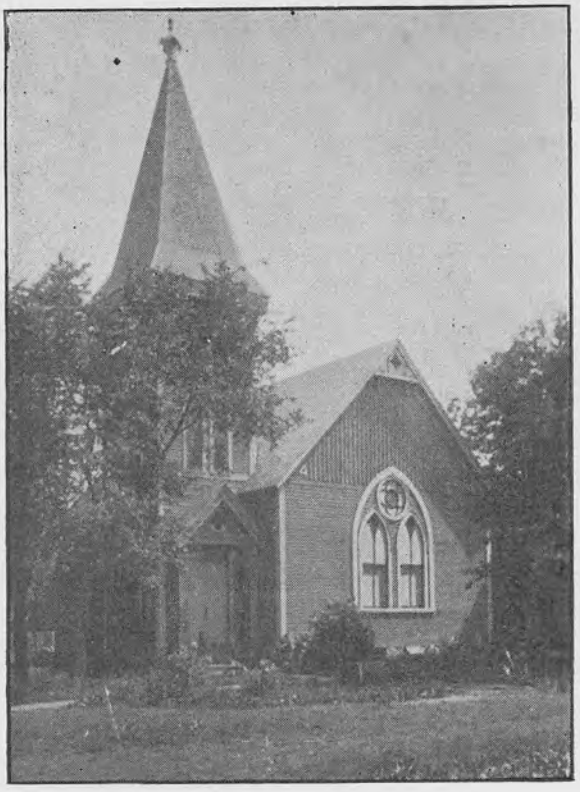
Judge Norton was born in Ohio. The family moved to Illinois in 1854 where he spent his boyhood days and received his schooling. He enlisted in the 83d Illinois, Infantry, July 27, 1862 and served in the army of the Cumberland under General Thomas. He was mustered out in July 1865, at the close of the war. He was constable and deputy sheriff in his home county in Illinois eight years. In 1879 he moved to Unadilla, Nebraska and engaged in carpentering until Talmage was started in 1882. What Judge Notron can relate in regard to the early history of this community would make a good sized volume of very interesting matter.

BANKER FRERICHS' HOME.

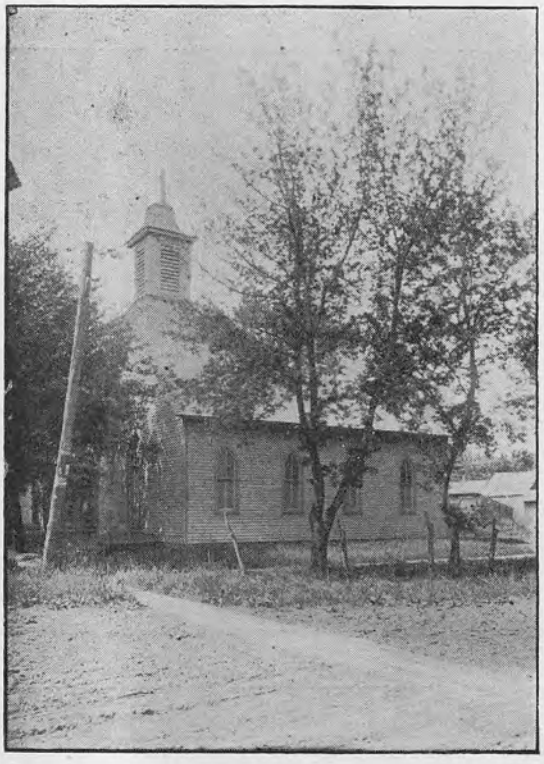
INTERIOR OF NEW LUTHERAN CHURCH.



NEW GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.



M. E. CHURCH.



GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH.